



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
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25th October 2023

Deputy Violet Anne Wynne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: violet-anne.wynne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Wynne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 44592/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the measures he will take following Budget 2024 to grow the base of personal assistants for people with disabilities in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or indirectly through a range of voluntary and private service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

With regard to the provision of PA and Home Support services, the local HSE CHO areas are aware of the needs in their respective areas and work with the local Service Providers to respond within the resources available.

Estimates Process

Each year the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Health and makes a submission for additional monies to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services.

The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for Day, Residential, Respite, Home Support/PA hours, Multi Disciplinary Posts and Neuro Rehab monies as a key element of its submission. Any new funding secured is allocated to the CHOs to provide services to those with the greatest need (priority basis).

The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for services via the Estimates process and is very conscious of the need to deliver disability policy on a more sustainable footing given the significant



levels of need for increased and more effective services and supports to enable people with a disability to live independent lives in their own community.

The HSE recognises the value of personal assistants for people with disabilities. While the HSE has made submissions for increased funding as part of the current budgetary process, any further increases in funding can only be considered within the parameters and scope of funding made available to the HSE.

The HSE has not as yet received the Letter of Determination or the written/agreed National Service Plan for next year. In that context, the HSE cannot indicate what funding provision will be made to Service Providers and to the Community Healthcare Areas for service provision at this stage.

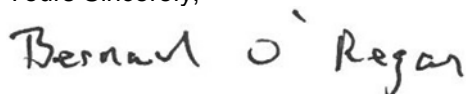
However, the HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. Table 1 below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2014 - 2022. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.

Table 1: Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2014- 2022

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,335,759	1,482,492	1,510,116	1,516,727	1,639,481	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309	1,746,136
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613	2,669
Home Support – Number of Hours	2,614,967	2,777,569	2,928,914	2,930,000	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164

As per the National Service Plan, the HSE committed to deliver an additional 70,370 personal assistant hours in 2023 to expand and enhance the supports for people to live self-directed lives in the community. Activity data up to end of Quarter 2, 2023 indicates that we are in line to meet national target at year end.

Yours Sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

